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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. ARMS FOR THE PERSIAN GULF: US POLICY ON ARMS SALES

EMBASSY KUWAIT ARGUES THAT IT IS PREMATURE TO EXPECT THE GULF STATES TO COORDINATE THEIR ARMS PURCHASES UNDER A CONCEPT OF REGIONAL COOPERATION. THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE MAINTAIN A FLEXIBLE POLICY ON SUCH SALES BY:

--SEEKING TO GUIDE THE GULF STATES IN A DIRECTION BENEFICIAL BOTH TO THEIR MILITARY SECURITY AND CAPABILITY AND TO OUR OWN STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN THE GULF;

--CONSIDERING THEIR REQUESTS FOR ARMS--IN LIMITED NUMBERS--WHICH ARE MODERN ENOUGH TO BE RESPECTABLE
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BUT NOT TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR THEM TO HANDLE; AND

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--PROVIDING EXPERT ADVICE ON MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS.
(SECRET) KUWAIT 4008 (EXDIS), 8/22.)

2. ISRAEL AND THE WEST BANK

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY TEL AVIV, THE ISRAELIS SEEM TO HAVE LEARNED FROM LAST SPRING'S WEST BANK DISTURBANCES THAT THE FORCIBLE REPRESSION OF DEMONSTRATIONS MAY BE TOO COSTLY IN ADVERSE PUBLICITY. FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON RECENTLY DESCRIBED TO AMBASSADOR TOON ISRAEL'S NEW "HANDS OFF" POLICY:

--THE IDF WILL NOT FORCE THE ARABS TO KEEP THEIR SHOPS AND SCHOOLS OPEN DURING STRIKES AND DISTURBANCES.

--CURFEWS WILL BE ENFORCED WHEN NECESSARY TO PREVENT EMOTIONS FROM BOILING OVER.

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL ARIEL TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT AND THE NEW WEST BANK LEADERS ARE GENERALLY PROCEEDING ON A PRACTICAL BASIS. HE ADDED THAT ISRAEL AND JORDAN BOTH UNDERSTAND THAT EVENTUALLY THEY WILL HAVE TO DECIDE JOINTLY THE FUTURE OF THE PALESTINIANS. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) TEL AVIV 5712, 8/20.)

3. FRG REJECTS ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST EAST GERMANY

EMBASSY BONN REPORTS THAT THE FRG HAS REJECTED A CDU CALL FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS TO COUNTER RECENT GDR ACTIONS ALONG THE BORDER. MOST BUSINESS LEADERS AND NEWSPAPERS ALSO OPPOSE THE PROPOSAL, WHICH IS SEEN AS POLITICALLY FUTILE AND HARMFUL TO WEST GERMAN FIRMS ENGAGED IN INTER-GERMAN TRADE.

EMBASSY COMMENT: BARRING A MAJOR ESCALATION BY THE GDR, THE FRG WILL NOT CONSIDER, MUCH LESS APPLY, ECONOMIC SANCTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, WE EXPECT THE OPPOSITION TO KEEP THE IDEA ALIVE UNTIL THE OCTOBER 3 ELECTIONS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 13792, 8/18.)
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4. THE SUDAN GLUM ON ERITREAN MEDIATION PROSPECTS

FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL MUKHTAR CONFIRMED TO CHARGE BOGOSIAN AUGUST 19 THAT THE SUDAN REMAINS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN ITS EFFORT TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE DIRG AND THE ERITREANS. HOWEVER, HE WAS PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CHANCES FOR SUCCESS BECAUSE:

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--NO ONE IN ADDIS ABABA IS ABLE TO MAKE THE DIFFICULT DECISIONS WHICH WOULD ALLOW THE MEDIATION EFFORT TO PROCEED.

--THE DIRG IS BEING CHALLENGED BY VARIOUS REGIONAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS AND TORN BY INTERNAL IDEOLOGICAL COMPETITION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: ETHIOPIA'S POLITICAL PROBLEMS ARE OF DIRECT AND INCREASING CONCERN TO THE SUDAN SINCE BATTLES IN ERITREA HAVE A WAY OF SPILLING OVER INTO SUDANESE TERRITORY. (CONFIDENTIAL) KHARTOUM 2469, 8/20.)

5. US-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS REMAIN COOL

IN THE VIEW OF EMBASSY MAPUTO, US-MOZAMBIQUE RELATIONS ARE STILL IN A "FEELING-OUT" STAGE AND WILL IMPROVE SLOWLY AT BEST. DESPITE SOME ENCOURAGING CONTACTS WITH MACHEL AND FRELIMO VICE PRESIDENT DOS SANTOS, THE EMBASSY EXPECTS THE GOVERNMENT TO REMAIN A HARSH CRITIC OF THE US. UNTIL WE KNOW MORE ABOUT MACHEL'S COMMITMENT TO A RADICAL COURSE IN MOZAMBIQUE AND SOUTHERN AFRICA, THE EMBASSY RECOMMENDS WE ADOPT A POSTURE THAT WILL PERMIT US TO DISENGAGE RAPIDLY AND WITH A MINIMUM OF COMPLICATIONS SHOULD DEVELOPMENTS TAKE A TURN NOT TO OUR LIKING. (SECRET) MAPUTO 939, 8/20.)
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